

# CAB displays 'Iron Eagles' at Texas A&M campus

Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt  
CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Pilots and crew chiefs from the 4th Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade flew an array of helicopters to the campus of Texas A&M University April 19, where Aggie ROTC cadets got an up close and personal view of the Iron Eagles.

Resting in the shadow of the Texas A&M Football Stadium, CAB Soldiers positioned Air Ambulance, Blackhawk and Longbow Apache helicopters on the College Station campus and fielded questions from cadets about Army aviation.

"We do this for our future," said Col. Donald MacWillie, commander of the CAB. "We have proud crew chiefs, NCOs (noncommissioned officers) and pilots that have been to war out here today who are proven warriors. Pilots like Capt. Hartleigh Caine (commander, Company C, 4th Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment) have been to war. She shows the cadets that she is a pilot – and they can be one as well."

Texas A&M has one of the largest ROTC programs in the country and offers commissions to cadets for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. The program teaches young men and women valuable information they will need to become commissioned officers in the service.

Army aviation is just one of the many branches cadets have to choose from, and static displays are a way cadets meet seasoned aviators who educate them on the aviation branch.

“A lot of students are asking me how they can become an Apache pilot,” said Caine, who redeployed late last year from Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07. “It feels great when young cadets ask how they can be like me. I would be more than happy to do this again if they ask me too.”

Alexis Baldwin, a second year ROTC cadet at the university, said he wants to be a Longbow Apache pilot and found Caine and the event very informative.

“When I heard they were going to have this, I couldn’t wait to talk to the Apache pilot,” said Baldwin. “Captain Caine gave me a lot of insight into what I can do to someday be in her shoes. I think this is just great, and I love the Apache. It has been my dream for a long time to fly one of these (Longbow Apache helicopters). Capt. Caine made me realize today that I can do it. She also gave me a lot of insight into what it was like flying in combat.”

Not only were cadets interested in what the pilots had to say, many wanted to know what makes the helicopters run and what kind of firepower they have.

“Most are fascinated that this is a combat aircraft,” said Spc. Kenneth Gray, Longbow Apache crew chief, Co. C, 4th Bn., 4th Aviation Regt. “The question I get a lot is how many missiles and rockets does this thing carry. This is the most technologically advanced helicopter in use today, and a lot of cadets are intrigued by the inner workings of the aircraft.”

Not only was the Longbow Apache helicopter a big hit with the students, a lot of students found it exciting to sit inside the Blackhawk and Air Ambulance helicopters and talk to Soldiers.

“I have never sat inside an Army helicopter, and I think it is pretty cool they are letting us sit in here and look around,” said James Seal, a cadet at the school, who was sitting with five of his cadet buddies inside a Blackhawk. “The Soldiers gave me a lot of information on these helicopters, and I found this to be a lot of fun today. I think flying one of these would be a really great job to have in the military.”



**Capt. Caine explains.**

Capt. Hartleigh Caine, commander, Company C, 4th Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, explains what it is like to be a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army to ROTC cadets at Texas A&M University in College Station April 19. Soldiers from the CAB brought three different types of helicopters to the campus so cadets could find out what Army aviation is all about.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt, CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.)



**Cadets check out air ambulance.**

Cadets from Texas A&M University in College Station gather around one of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division's Air Ambulance helicopters April 19 at the university. Soldiers from the brigade flew in an array of helicopters so cadets could talk to aviation Soldiers about what it is like being a helicopter pilot. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt, CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.)



**Spc. Gray shows student**

Spc. Kenneth Gray, Longbow Apache crew chief, Company C, 4th Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, explains how the Longbow Apache helicopter runs to ROTC cadets at Texas A&M University in College Station April 19. Soldiers from the brigade flew to the university from Fort Hood to give cadets an up close and personal view of the helicopters and to educate them on what it is like being an aviation Soldier. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt, CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.)